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NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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**New Hampshire Insurance Department Receives
Accreditation Award**

CONCORD, NH (September 19, 2003) — Today, New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny announced that the New Hampshire Insurance Department received an Accreditation Award under the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC) Financial Regulation and Accreditation Standards program. The award was presented to the NH Insurance Department on September 14, 2003 at the 2003 NAIC Fall National Meeting in Chicago, IL.

The New Hampshire Insurance Department recently underwent a comprehensive review by an independent review team that ensures the Department meets NAIC national standards. The NAIC standards require that the Department have appropriate authority to adequately regulate an insurer's corporate affairs and financial condition, as well as adequate resources to carry out its obligations under the law and that it meets standards in the areas of financial analysis and financial examination.

"We are very proud and pleased that we have again been awarded the NAIC Accreditation Award. The Department is committed to protecting New Hampshire insurance consumers by ensuring companies are in sound financial condition." Said Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny. "Consumers benefit when the insurance industry is financially strong. Our financial examiners are well trained, experienced professionals, who are likewise committed to ensuring that insurance companies are able to meet their obligations to their policyholders."

Financial regulation provides crucial safeguards for New Hampshire's insurance consumers. The Department's financial examiners investigate company accounting methods, procedures and financial statements. Examiners verify and validate what companies present in their annual financial statements to ensure that all companies are in sound financial condition.

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